

LOUISVILLE JOURNAL
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MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1865.

OUR CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.—The Governor, in his message, speaks in terms of just commendation of the charitable institutions of our State, the Eastern and Western Lunatic Asylums, the Feeble-minded Institute at Frankfort, the Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Danville, and the Institute for the Blind at Louisville. He urges the necessity now exists for their "more ample support." We heartily concur in the Governor's views.

During the war these institutions were almost from about necessity too much overlocked, and though they did not cease their operations their means were crippled and their benefits impaired.

With the return of peace, they should receive more careful attention and all the aid they require to enable them to confer the greatest possible amount of good upon the sullen and afflicted people of the community than they were enabled to bestow. These are most important duty devolving upon the Legislature. These institutions are monuments of the genuine philanthropy and civilization of Kentucky. They are jewels in her crown that ought to be cherished and kept always burnished. To minister to a "mild disease," and, if possible, restore reason to her aghast throne, is surely a work worthy of men and angels. How many, alas! of the gifted children of genius have, in different ages and countries, been bereft of that great sunlight of the soul, and cast been left to wander through a night all dark and dreary! The good God has seen proper to take some of these away, and the causes and shadows are unknown. Formerly it was thought that insanity is incurable, and too frequently it was supposed to mark the peculiar displeasure of the Creator against those thus afflicted. The victims were invested with a sort of superstitious dread, and they were left in numerous instances to perish miserably in their chains and dust and filth. But, thanks to our noble and advancing Christian civilization, a change for the better has been wrought, and insanity is now known to be a disease, not of the mind, but of the body, the organs through which its processes are manifested, and that in a multitude of cases it is capable of a radical and permanent cure, like any other disease. Science and medical skill have been gradually reducing the percentage of the absolutely incurably insane, and may yet entirely extinguish it.

With regard to the feeble-minded, a great change has also been effected. It is found that all the cases are capable with judicious treatment of being cured, and that, while many can be taught useful trades, and then enabled, after a while, to support themselves. The old definition of Blackstone that "an idiot or natural fool is one that hath had no understanding from his nativity, and therefore is by law presumed never likely to attain any," has become to some extent defective. He is capable of attaining some understanding, as the actual experiments which have made prove. The education of the deaf and dumb enables them to become useful if not very eminent members of society; and if the blind do not exactly "see" the right, they are so taught that they can enjoy anything except the sense of sight to as great extent as any other members of the community.

We are not familiar with the affairs of our Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Danville, and cannot, more definitely, say what condition it is now in, while many are taught useful trades, and then enabled, after a while, to support themselves. The old definition of Blackstone that "an idiot or natural fool is one that hath had no understanding from his nativity, and therefore is by law presumed never likely to attain any," has become to some extent defective. He is capable of attaining some understanding, as the actual experiments which have made prove. The education of the deaf and dumb enables them to become useful if not very eminent members of society; and if the blind do not exactly "see" the right, they are so taught that they can enjoy anything except the sense of sight to as great extent as any other members of the community.

With regard to the institution for the blind now that they are better posted, and can speak more definitely, we say that it is now most beautiful and lovely, and under the vigilant and careful superintendence of Mr. Patton and his well-known associates, it is now a model home, but a home for the blind, one of the best managed, neatest, and, in all respects, most admirable asylums of the kind that can be found in this country.

We paid a visit not long ago, and were delighted with everything we saw. The grounds are ample and airy, and the health of the inmates excellent. Nothing that can contribute to the welfare, improvement, comfort, and happiness of the blind can be forgotten or neglected. We saw specimens of every article executed by the girls, that look as if they had been manufactured by the fairies. Mr. Patton is ever taking his ingenuity for new means for giving employment to both boys and girls, and thus to enhance their pleasure and their improvement. The institution suffered severely by the war, the inmates having been driven out of it, and the buildings turned into a hospital. Matters are now in the best state of successful progress. It is now employing many more pupils than it now has. Its advantages for the education of the blind should be made known throughout the State.

We were astonished to find the "Paradise Lost" and many other great works printed in raised characters, and to perceive with what readiness and intelligence the pupils read and appreciate them.

This institution is indeed an honor and a glory to Kentucky, and richly merits all that she has done for it.

Society has observed by way of contrast between Christian and heathen civilization—if the latter may be so termed—that there is not a single charitable institution for the benefit of men in any heathen country on the face of the earth. The remark was elicited by the existence of a sort of hospital for animals which was some years ago visited and described by an American missionary in Burma.

One of the most vivid and striking descriptions of human wretchedness and horror we ever perused was Dr. Madden's account of his visit to the Mohammedan mad-house at Cairo, in Egypt. It fairly shivered one's blood. The victims were all chained like wild beasts in their dens and so remained till death relieved them of their miseries.

Too little do we appreciate our noble and humane civilization.

CONVENTION AT FRANKFORT IN JANUARY.—We are glad to observe that prominent and influential gentlemen, identified with the Agricultural Society of the State, are about to take decisive steps toward establishing in Kentucky a reliable system of labor. At a meeting of the Society, at Frankfort, on the 14th inst., a committee was appointed, in accordance with a resolution, to lease a call for a convention to be held in the State, to consider the various interests of the slaves, and to assemble in Frankfort, on the 11th of January next, the object of the convention being the adoption of the most judicious plan for encouraging the immigration of intelligent and industrious men to Kentucky, as well as to discuss the most effective principles upon which to construct a new system of labor. The call for this convention appeared in our columns on Saturday, and will be given to it the attention of the friends throughout the State.

This subject is one of mighty interest to this State. It pertains to interests that are fundamental to the welfare of Kentucky. The demand for reliable and efficient laborers in the ranks of an already exceeding pressing one, the importance of which is nearly felt in every department of industry. The overthrow of slavery has necessarily left the cause of labor in a deranged condition in this State, and it is now incumbent upon our agriculturists, in co-operation with the friends of the slaves, to find the most feasible plan for remedying the consequent evils. We believe that these evils can be speedily removed by the concerted action of the leading agriculturists of the State, and the convention indicated by the present call will serve as the best medium through which the wants and wishes of our people can be known. The call proposes that each county in the State shall send delegates to the convention, to be selected by the colored labor and immigration shall be fully discussed, in connection with the needs of our industrial interests. We are sure, at least we hope, that the meeting will be attended by representatives from every section of the State.

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and beneath it are various and numerous m'nials of the most elegant and richest character. The inhabitants of Kentucky is beyond compare, and now her fields are opened for the free access of all available labor and capital. What we need at present is a reliable system of labor for developing our bountiful resources, and we earnestly hope the opportunity for discussing this vital subject in convention will not be allowed to pass unimproved by the agriculturalists of the State. Let, therefore, the proposed convention comprise representatives from every county of the wealth and industry of Kentucky.

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SPECIAL NOTICE of the Adams Express Company.

THIS COMPANY IS PROHIBITED BY THEIR CON-
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POWDER, and therefore refuse to receive it for shipment. Many persons are now engaged in carrying powder, and ship the same as merchandise without our knowledge, endangering the lives and property of others. Any person who carries powder, or any explosive, in their possession, is liable to a fine of \$1000.

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STOCKHOLDER'S MEETING.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS
OF THE Louisville and Jefferson County Asso-
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on Saturday, Dec. 20th, at 10 o'clock A.M. All
attendance is required.

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Secretary.

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FIRST GRIEF.

The following poem was written by James Hasker, a Scotch poet but little known in this country. What is not every man's lot in a short life?

To see his friends fall in the field of battle.

They tell me first and early love

Ends all after dream;

But the last great grief

To see more lasting scenes.

The grief that marks our dawning youth

Is the last that we see.

And over the path of future years

Are the paths of life.

Oh! oft my mind recites your

When to my father's home

Death came an untimely guest,

From the tomb.

I had not seen his face before—

—sighed at the sight;

And I wept for him.

The anguish of that night!

A painful heart-wrung check

Heavily cold and wet,

With a groan he sank to the earth

Leaving upon one withered flower,

And left me.

Cold was the cold and the dead,

The eye was fixed and dim;

And his hand was dead.

Who died for him?

I know not summer then,

But it is here near the tree,

I did not hear him sing;

So long as I can keep,

With him as if I could,

To make the sleepers sleep,

And every voice was low.

And from each chest at intervals

The groan of death,

As it rolled in thunder hate

To bid the world adieu;

So long as I can keep,

With him as if I could,

To make the sleepers sleep,

And every voice was low.

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